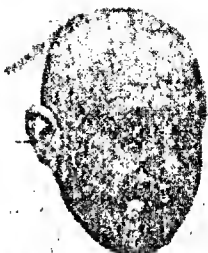


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Jack Guinn Says More Tears Over Spilled Milk

OUT in our neighborhood, where there are many independent voters who enjoy finding fault with Democrats and Republicans alike, we have been fascinated with the post-election Kennedy-Nixon argument over who knew the most about Cuba. In all fairness, we have decided that since the election was almost a draw anyway, we are safe in not believing either story.

But that is not what has provided us with the most rewarding discussions. We don't think the CIA would have done any better with its \$45 million invasion if Nixon had won, or if the same set of cloak and dagger plotters had been operating under any of the Roosevelts, Herbert Hoover, Thomas Jefferson or Jean Lafitte.

What interested us was Mr. Nixon's statement that when Mr. Kennedy came out for a stronger stand against Cuba, Mr. Nixon naturally had to take the other view. Mr. Nixon says in his book that this was done to protect the maneuvers under way, but there is considerable implication that it also involved the necessity of being on the other side of a political issue.

This led us into frivolous but somewhat philosophical debate on what would have happened if Mr. Kennedy had taken a stand on the inherent rights of the rich, or whether dogs or dog stories ought to be on television, or who is to be photographed playing golf, or who should be allowed to take part in the festivities on St. Patrick's Day.

And then there are the classic issues of politics which were avoided in the last campaign: is it advantageous to be born in a log cabin; can something good be said about mother; and what is the proper view, other than religious, to be taken of adultery?

We decided that it was a relief, in a way, that none of these things came up. The way we recall it, there was very little difference in the candidates' platitudes.

We could even remember, for instance, that they had ever mentioned Cuba.